THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) There is no scheme for providing specifically computer internet facility only. Department of Secondary and Higher Educaiton, Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a scheme of ICT @ Schools during 2004-05, under which financial assistance would be provided to the State/UT for the computer education and training of Students. As per the norms of the scheme, an amount of Rs. 30,000/- per school would be provided for Internet Connectivity to the State/UTs for Govt. and Govt. aided Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools only in addition to other items like hardware, software, maintenance etc.

Revenue implications under Unified Access License Regime

4522. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Unified Access License Regime in Telecom sector;

(b) the number of companies issued such license;

(c) whether Government has cut telecome license penalties for delayed payments for Unified Access Licensees migrating to UASL, NSD and ILD Services; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard, with details of the companies that would benefit from such relaxation and revenue implication thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Unified access Service Licensee can provide wireline and wireless services to its subscribers within its well defined geographical areas commonly known as Service Area. The Licensee is free to deploy state of art digital technology.

(b) Twelve (12) companies have been issued such licence in different service areas.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The amended Clauses as applicable to 15 companies for Unified Access Service License (UASL), National Long Distance Service License and International Long Distance Service License, stipulate that:

Any delay in payment of LICENCE Fee, or any other dues payable under the LICENCE beyond the stipulated period will attract interest at a rate which will be 2% above the Prime Lending Rate (PLR) of State Bank of India existing as on the beginning of the financial year (1st April) in respect of the licence fees pertaining to the said financial year. The interest shall be compounded monthly and a part of the month shall be reckoned as a full month for the purpose of calculation of interest.

In case, the total amount paid on the self-assessment of the LICENSEE as quarterly LICENCE Fee for the 4 (Four) quarters of the financial year, falls short by more than 10% of the payable LICENCE Fee, it shall attract a penalty of 50% of the entire amount of short payment. The amount of short payment along with the penalty shall be payable within 15 days of the date of signing the audit report on the annual accounts, failing which interest shall be further charged as per terms of condition 6.5/20.5. However, if such short payment is made good within 60 days from the last day of the financial year, no penalty shall be imposed.

The differential amount of interest and penalty cannot be termed as a revenue loss except in a hypothetical sense since, unlike license fee, interest and penalty are not regular source of revenue and the reduced rates will get attracted only if some of the licensees fail to pay their dues, that become payable for period from 01.04.2005 onwards, as prescribed.

Setting up of Electronic Software Parks

4523. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any scheme for setting up of electronic software parks for rural development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?